

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

# **SYNOPSIS**

### **GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
6:00 P.M.**

**Novellus  
3960 N. First Street  
San Jose, CA 95134**

MELANIE RICHARDSON, CHAIR

MARY ANN RUIZ, VICE CHAIR

MIKE FLAUGHER

LESLEE HAMILTON

G.M. HARDING

JAMES KIM

JULIE MATSUSHIMA

ERIK KARSTAN SMITH

#### **1 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Chair Richardson, Vice-Chair Ruiz, Commissioners Flaughner, Hamilton and Kim

Late: Commissioner Smith

Absent: Commissioners Harding and Matsushima

#### **2 ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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Chair Richardson revised the time allotted to the Action Items as follow: Item 7.1 will be heard for 90 minutes and Item 7.2 will be heard for 20 minutes.

#### **3 CEREMONIAL ITEMS**

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##### **3.1 Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Mark Swineford**

The Commission thanked Mark Swineford and expressed appreciation for his 4 ½ years of service to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

#### **4 ORAL COMMUNICATION**

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#### **5 CONSENT CALENDAR**

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5.1 Approval of Synopsis for December 5, 2007 Meeting

5.2 Approval of Synopsis for January 16, 2008

5.3 Update on Greenprint Status

**It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Ruiz, and voted unanimously that the Consent Calendar Items be Approved.**

**Vice-Chair Ruiz was absent for the December 5, 2007 meeting and recused herself from item 5.1**

**6 PUBLIC HEARING**

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None

**7 ACTION ITEMS**

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7.1 North San Jose Parks Plan Presentation

Dave Mitchell, Parks Planning Manager gave a presentation entitled Parks and Recreation Element for North San Jose Policy Area.

Speaker Jean Marlowe, community member, spoke in support of option 3 in the plan and suggested that San Jose Redevelopment Agency funds, which have been generated in North San Jose, be spent to purchase parklands in North San Jose.

Matt Cano, Division Manager replied that the Redevelopment Agency has received previous requests for this. Staff will discuss this with them as part of the Council process to approve the North San Jose Task Force.

Speaker Erik Kaedina, community member spoke against building an \$18 million Aquatic Center. He feels that an aquatics center is not necessary in a multi-track housing development because pools would be part of the development.

Speaker Don Bragg, North San Jose Parks Plan Task Force member and representative of Irvine Co. spoke in support of the plan which he feels will benefit the City of San Jose by attracting new business.

Speaker Helen Chapman, CalSJ representative stated that the Public-Private Partnership (P3) Initiative was approved by City Council on February 12, 2008. This opens the door to other funding opportunities. She recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission take care not to adopt a lower park ratio standard.

Mr. Bragg responded that the current plan does not reduce the ratio. But it provides a good plan for what can be accomplished with available PDO/PIO funding.

Chair Richardson stated that the lower parks ratio has happened by default in other parts of the City and the Commission is trying to ensure that it does not happen this time.

Commissioner Flaughner stated it is critical that the early phases of the plan are successful. Exploring ways to fund early land acquisitions is important to ensure success of the whole plan.

The Commission discussed the San Jose Parks Plan and agreed to approve it with amendments. It is important to reach a policy goal ratio of 3.5 acres per thousand. The Commission requested the Task Force identify opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships for specific amenities and requested that desirable park sites, such as Agnews, be actively pursued. The Commission feels it is important to front load the money into the plan, in order to ensure success at all phases. They directed the Task Force to explore the possibility of using Redevelopment Agency funding which has been generated in North San Jose.

**It was moved by Commissioner Ruiz, seconded by Commissioner Smith and voted unanimously that the report be Accepted with the following Recommendations:**

- **Set a Policy Goal Ratio of 3.5 Acres per 1000 population; Seek to Achieve the Maximum Acreage Possible**
- **Pursue Public-Private Partnership Opportunities as Alternative Funding Strategy for Specific Amenities**
- **Identify and Pursue Desirable Park Sites (such as Agnews)**
- **Identify Ways to Front Load Money into the Beginning Phases of the Plan; Explore the Possibility of Using Redevelopment Agency Funding for this Purpose**

#### **7.2     Review of Planning Applications**

Dave Mitchell reported for the weeks of January 10, 2008 to January 31, 2008.

**It was moved by Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Flaughner and voted unanimously that the report be Accepted.**

#### **7.3     Review and Approval of Park Naming Procedures**

**This item was deferred to a future Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.**

### **8       DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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Albert Balagso, Director stated that, as Ms. Chapman already mentioned, the Public-Private Partnership (P3) Initiative was approved by City Council on February 12, 2008. Council amended the existing policy to allow the application of prevailing wage for donated services. This will allow Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services to enter into agreement with a private partner for landscaping services and other services. Also

approved was 1 ½ positions for a Volunteer Coordinator. This will allow staff to proceed with a previous request to amend 5 Council policies. These policies are: Volunteer Help for Park Improvement, Long-term Use of City Parklands for Private Enterprise Purposes, City Improvement of School Sites for Public Recreation, the Naming Policy and the Sponsorship Policy.

Mr. Balagso then stated he would be leading a small think-tank discussion on non-profits. Commissioner Hamilton will participate as a representative from the Friends of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens to ensure that the City and the Foundation will not be competing for the same money. He then reported that the Construction & Conveyance (C&C) Tax discussion is evolving. Clarification is needed for what "reuse of C&C" will mean. The proposal from the Parks Maintenance Sub-committee is to increase the C&C and alter the use so that more money can be spent on maintenance. Management Partners has recommended to shift the funding to park maintenance without an increase in the tax. Staff has concerns of funding shift alone because renovation projects would suffer and the infrastructure backlog would increase significantly. Currently, 55% of C&C goes towards restoration projects, 15% towards maintenance, 20% towards new projects (of which half supports the existing bond program). Mr. Balagso requested the Commission to keep watch on this and reported that this issue would be discussed at the Mayor's Priority Setting Session & Strategic Planning Retreat on Friday, February 15, 2008.

Matt Cano, Division Manager reported that staff is working with the Planning Department to schedule a joint session of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission. Possible dates for this meeting are April 9, April 21 and May 7. He added that May 7 is a regular Commission meeting date for the Parks and Recreation Commission. The two dates in April would be additional meetings.

Chair Richardson requested the Commissioners review their calendars and that this item be placed on the agenda for the Parks and Recreation Commission Development Meeting and Study Session on February 19, 2008 for discussion and action.

## **9 LIAISON REPORTS**

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9.1 Council Liaison  
No report.

9.2 Coyote Valley Task Force  
No report.

9.3 Senior Citizens Commission  
No report.

9.4 Parks Maintenance Sub-Committee Report  
No report.

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9.5 Land Use Policy Sub-Committee Report

No report.

9.6 Youth Commission

No report.

9.7 Community Sports Fields Study Committee

Matt Cano reported a large community meeting will be held on March 3, 2008. Invitations will be forthcoming. Albert Balagso stated staff will be giving a status report on the sports parks to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee meeting on February 14, 2008. This is the same report that was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission in January.

9.8 General Plan Task Force Report

No report.

9.9 Sunshine Reform Task Force

No report.

9.10 Greenprint Subcommittee

Chair Richardson requested that a replacement for Commissioner Swineford be discussed at the March 5, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Commissioner Smith requested the Marshall-Cottle Project be added to the Liaison Reports as a standing item.

9.11 North San Jose Task Force

No report.

**10 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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10.1 Commissioner News Items

10.2 Future Agenda Items

**11 CORRESPONDENCE**

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11.1 Final Letter to the Planning Commission Regarding North San Jose Proposed Projects (FYI Only)

**12 ADJOURNMENT**

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The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next general Parks and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2008.